

COMMISSION ON THE ENVIROMENT MINUTES
Potomac Building
Minutes of June 4, 2008

COE Members present were Barne Wheeler, Chairman; Marta Kelsey, Troy Hansen, Sandy Neville, Bill Shreve, Caroline Miller, and Frank Allen. Members absent were Daryl Calvano, Larry Hartwick and Susan Blake. Others present were Sue Veith and Jada Stuckert, Recording Secretary.

- I) **Call to Order:** Mr. Wheeler called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.
- II) **Discussion & Approval of November Meeting Minutes:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of May 7, 2008 as presented.
- III) **Continuing Business:**
 - a. **Update on Adequate Public Facilities Proposal:** Mr. Wheeler stated he contacted Mr. Jackman who informed him that the Planning Commission has not met on this issue yet. Mr. Wheeler recommended the Commission wait until the Planning Commission meets before we send out our letter.
 - b. **Update on WPTF Issues and Actions**
 1. **Dyson Outstanding Issues:** Mr. Wheeler stated there are still a couple questions that Senator Dyson has not adequately answered. Mr. Wheeler also stated there has also been slowness in the approval of permits by MDE.
 2. **Large Industrial/Commercial Water Users:** Mr. Wheeler stated we are now being led to believe that this issue is now being done in a manner similar to the desires expressed in our letter.
 3. **Since the WPTF was meeting on June 24, it was agreed to let that group discuss water related issues and then report to the COE.**
 - c. **Update on Solid Waste Issue:** Mr. Wheeler stated he sent an email to Mr. James to which he responded. Mr. Wheeler asked what type of information the Commission wanted listed on the website as far as recycling, etc. Ms. Neville recommended easy recycling tips for the busy household. Mr. Shreeve recommended information on single-stream recycling. Mr. Allen recommended the Commission focus on the behavioral site of recycling meaning things a person can do to reduce their amount of waste.

It was asked if SWAC has discussed the possibility of making St. Mary's County haulers offer curb-side pickup throughout the County. Mr. Paul Waxman stated SWAC has not met since January due to not having a quorum. Mr. Waxman stated they must have four (4) for a quorum due to their by-laws and they can't get any members on the committee. Mr. Waxman stated all of these items have been discussed however without a quorum nothing is being accomplished.

After discussion Ms. Miller made a motion to write a letter to the County Commissioners regarding the situation with SWAC and recommending that vacant available positions be filled. Ms. Kelsey seconded. The motion passed by a 7-0 vote. Ms. Miller agreed to draft a letter for review at the next meeting.
 - d. **Status on LUGM Critical Area Update:** Ms. Veith stated the language is being revised to include new legislation. Ms. Veith reviewed some of the new regulations concerning

HB 1253. Ms. Veith stated she would keep the Commission updated. Mr. Hansen stated he would forward a copy of the May-June American Law Journal concerning critical area to everyone.

IV) New Business:

- a. Green Building Subcommittee Status:** Ms. Neville stated they will schedule their first meeting and let the committee know. Ms. Neville stated it has been decided to hold the meetings once a month at the Higher Education Center.

Ms. Neville explained the space in the Higher Education Center and stated the Commission could hold their yearly forum there for free as long as a paying customer does not bump us out. After discussion Mr. Shreeve made a motion to hold the 2009 Commission on the Environment Forum at the Higher Education Center on March 14, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. with no snow date and Ms. Kelsey seconded. The motion passed by a 7-0 vote.

- b. Menhaden vs. Oyster Project:** Ms. Veith stated she believes this is too advanced for High School students to undertake. Mr. Hansen disagreed stating some of these High School children are very smart young adults. The Commission discussed how to introduce this to high school science departments. **Mr. Hansen volunteered to contact County School Administration personnel to determine whether there was interest in undertaking such a project and, if so, what would be required from the COE.**

- c. Review of Goals & Objectives.** The following two agendas were postponed to a later meeting.

- 1. Incorporation of Larry Hartwick's Forum Data**
- 2. Educating the Public (What, How, Who)**

- V) Announcements:** The group discussed the next COE meeting. There was general agreement that a July 2 meeting should be held.

- VI) Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 p.m.